



Quick guide to essential rules of the game



1. What are the primary responsibilities of a HBA referee?

- Enforcing the rules of the game.
- Making decisions on fouls, violations, and other game situations.
- Ensuring fair play and maintaining the flow of the game.

2. How long is each quarter in a HBA basketball game?

- Each Half is 12 minutes long (Primary School)
- Each half is 12 minutes long (Intermediate)
- Each Quarter is 6-8 minutes long depending on grade (Sec School)

3. What is the length of the halftime & quarters break?

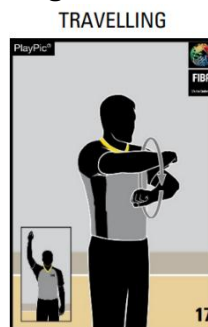
- The halftime break is 2 minutes long.
- The quarter time breaks 1 minute long.

4. How does the shot clock function?

- The shot clock is set to 24 seconds, which limits the offensive team's time to attempt a shot.
- Primary and Intermediate do not use shot clock

5. What is the proper signal for a traveling violation?

- Rotate one hand around the other to indicate the player moved without dribbling.



Rotate fists

6. What should a referee do if a player is injured?

- Stop the game, call for medical assistance if necessary, and ensure the player is attended to.
- Stop when the play comes towards injured player.

7. How is a jump ball conducted?

- Toss the ball vertically between two opposing players who jump to try and catch it. This is only done at the start of the game.

8. What is the three-point line, and how does it affect scoring?

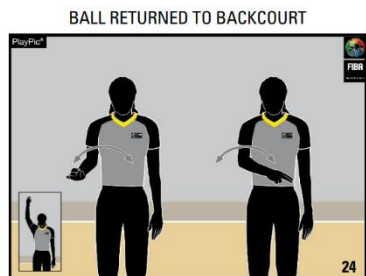
- The three-point line is an arc around the basket; shots made from beyond this line count for three points.

9. What are the different types of fouls in basketball?

- Personal fouls, technical fouls, intentional fouls, and disqualifying fouls.
- Unsportsmanlike foul

10. What is a backcourt violation?

- When the offensive team returns the ball to the backcourt after having crossed the midcourt line.
- Both feet + Ball



Wave arm front of body

11. What is the procedure for a lane violation during free throws?

Players must stay outside the key area until the ball is released by the shooter.

12. What constitutes a goaltending violation?

- Blocking or interfering with a shot on its way down or when it is above the rim. This may include slapping the net/backboard.
- Basket interference

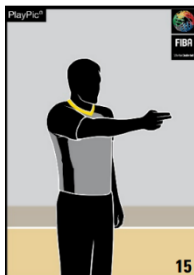
GOALTENDING/ BASKET



Rotate finger, extend index finger over the other hand with a circle

13. How do you signal an out-of-bounds violation?

DIRECTION OF PLAY AND/OR OUT-OF-BOUNDS



Point in direction of play, arm parallel to sidelines

- Hand up then indicate the direction of possession.

14. How should a referee handle player or coach misconduct?

- Issue a warning, assess a technical foul, or a disqualifying foul as necessary.

15. What are the rules for team fouls and bonus free throws?

- After a team accumulates a certain number of fouls (usually 4 per quarter), the opposing team is awarded free throws on the 5th.
- HBA (Primary school) player is awarded 1 free throw then possession from the side when fouled in the act of shooting.
- HBA (Intermediate) player is awarded 2 free throws when fouled in the act of shooting.

16. How is a technical foul different from a personal foul?

- A technical foul is related to a non-contact foul or behavioural issues, while a personal foul impacts play.

17. What are the basic positions on a basketball court?

- 1. Point Guard, 2. Shooting Guard, 3. Small Forward, 4. Power Forward, and 5. Centre

18. What is the procedure for handling substitutions?

- Substitutions are made during stoppages in play, with the player entering the court **only after the referee signals** them in.
- In Primary grades subs can be made at any time during the game (referred to as rolling subs)



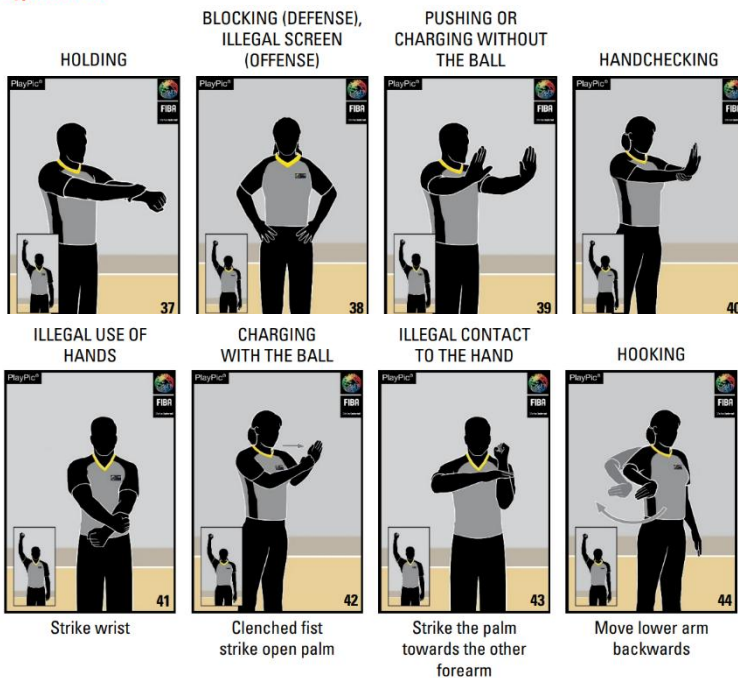
19. What is the role of the shot clock reset rule?

- The shot clock resets to 14 seconds if the offensive team rebounds their own missed shot **or if there is a foul by the defense** during a shot attempt.
- Turn over resets to 24 sec.

20. What is the correct signal for a foul?

- Use the appropriate hand signal as outlined by FIBA rules and clearly indicate the nature of the foul.

Type of Fouls



Link to FIBA Booklet :

www.fiba.basketball/documents/official-basketball-rules/current.pdf

21. How should referees signal a timeout?

- Extend arm up and then form a T with your index finger and opposite hand.

CHARGED TIME-OUT



Form T,
show index finger

22. How do you handle a situation where the score on the scoreboard is incorrect?

- Stop the game, alert the official scorer to correct the score, and ensure play resumes with the correct information.

23. What is the procedure for a jump ball situation after the initial jump ball?

- The possession arrow indicates which team gets the next possession in case of a jump ball situation.

24. What are the rules for handling the game clock and shot clock?

- The game clock runs continuously, except for stoppages, while the shot clock resets based on specific game scenarios.

25. What is the proper procedure for issuing a disqualifying foul?

- Signal the foul clearly, inform the scorer's table, and ensure the offending player is removed from the game.
- Any flagrant unsportsmanlike action by players, subs, coaches or bench members.
- Acts of violence contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.

DISQUALIFYING FOUL



**Clenched fists
on both hands**

26. What are the key responsibilities of the second referee in a two-referee system (2PO)?

- Assist with monitoring different areas of the court and focus on fouls and violations not immediately visible to the lead referee.

27. How should referees prepare before a game?

- Review the rules, conduct a pre-game meeting.
- Ensure game clock is working and set to the right times.
- Make sure both teams have signed in the correct players on the score lpad.

28. What is the proper way to handle player protests or complaints?

- Remain calm, listen to the player or coach, but make it clear the decision is final and consult with other referees if necessary.

29. What constitutes a personal foul?

- A foul committed by a player that impacts the opponent's play, such as holding or pushing.

30. What is the rule for handling unsporting behaviour or technical fouls?

- Call the foul immediately, signal clearly, and ensure the opposing team is awarded the appropriate free throws.



31. How is a free throw awarded and executed?

- Awarded after certain fouls.
- Usually when the player is fouled in the act of shooting or when the opposing team is over the foul limit in the quarter (5th team foul and above)
- The player takes a shot from the free-throw line without interference (1, 2 or 3 shots)

32. What are the rules for the 24-second shot clock violation?

- The offense must attempt a shot within 24 seconds; otherwise, it's a turnover.
- Ball must hit the rim



Fingers touch shoulder

33. What should a referee do if the game clock or shot clock malfunctions?

- Stop the game and address the issue; consult with the table officials/venue controller to correct the clocks.

34. How do you handle a situation where a player or coach is persistently arguing with the referees?

- Remain professional, issue a warning, and if necessary, assess a technical foul for unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- Advise venue controller or referee educator of the situation.

35. What is the rule for “fifth foul” and “ejection” of a player?

- A player is disqualified from the game after their fifth personal foul or a serious infraction.
- Or 2 technical fouls and/or unsportsmanlike fouls or a combination of each.

36. What are the responsibilities of the official scorer and timer?

- The official scorer records points, fouls, and other game events, while the timer manages the game and shot clocks.

37. What is the procedure for handling an illegal defence or zone defence violation?

- While HBA allows zone defence in Sec School Sr grades , any illegal or excessive zone defence must be assessed and addressed by either a HBA zone buster, venue controller or referee educator.

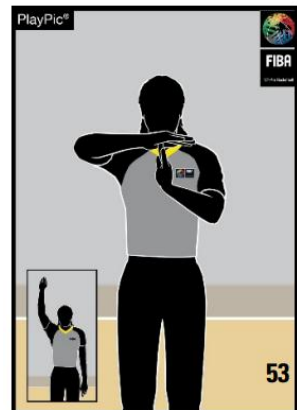
38. What is the procedure for a violation involving a player’s foot on the line during a shot?

- If a player’s foot is on or over the three-point line, the basket counts as a two-pointer.

39. How do you signal a technical foul committed by a coach or player?

- Use the specific technical foul signal: both hands on hips, then use a “T” gesture with one hand.

TECHNICAL FOUL



Form T, showing palms

40. What is the rule for resetting the shot clock after a defensive rebound?

- If the defensive team recovers the ball, the shot clock resets to 24 seconds if it had already been running.

41. How do you handle an offensive foul?

- Call the foul immediately and signal it; the offensive team loses possession.
- Use fist to signal direction not fingers



Clenched fist
strike open palm

42. What are the rules for player substitution during free throws?

- Substitutions are allowed before the 1st free throw
- If the final free throw is made.
- If the 2nd free throw is missed the sub can enter on the next stoppage of play.

43. How should you signal a foul on a player attempting a three-point shot?

- Use the foul signal and indicate the three-point attempt by extending three fingers.

FOUL ON THE ACT OF SHOOTING



One arm with clenched fist, followed by indication of the number of free throws

44. What is the rule for handling a game suspension due to external factors (e.g., wet floor, unsafe equipment)?

- The game is suspended and may be rescheduled or continued from where it was left off.

45. What is the procedure if a team requests a timeout during a live ball situation?

- A timeout **can only** be granted during a stoppage in play; the game continues until a stoppage occurs.

46. What kind of garments can be worn underneath the playing uniform?

- All players must have their compression garments (undershirts & undershorts) the same solid colour.
- Must be tight compression

47. What is the rule for handling a shot clock violation?

- If the offensive team does not attempt a shot within 24 seconds, the opposing team gains possession.

SHOT CLOCK



Fingers touch shoulder

48. What should a referee do if there is a discrepancy between the referee's and the official scorer's records?

- Stop the game and consult with the scorer to resolve any discrepancies.

49. How do you signal a double dribble violation?

- Use both hands to indicate that the player has dribbled the ball with both hands simultaneously or restarted dribbling after stopping.

**ILLEGAL DRIBBLE:
DOUBLE DRIBBLING**



Patting motion with palm

50. What is the procedure for dealing with bad behavioural conduct by a player?

- Issue a technical foul if the conduct is severe, and ensure the opposing team receives 1 free throw then resume play where it was.

51. What is the charge circle and the rules about it?

- It aims to protect offensive players from defenders who are moving into their path in a way that could lead to dangerous collisions.
- If an offensive player makes contact with a defender who is legally positioned outside the charge circle, it is typically called an offensive foul. However, if the defender is within the charge circle, the foul is usually called on the defensive player.

52. Bench Area

- The bench area is a designated space where team personnel (players and coaches sit during the game. It's typically located along the sidelines opposite the scorer's table.

Thinking about becoming a referee, inquire now.

Contact Scott – Officials@harbour.basketball

2024 FIBA Official Basketball Rules

<https://www.fiba.basketball/documents/official-basketball-rules/current.pdf>